

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 Source selective information retrieval systems and methods. The inventive system is adapted to receive an information retrieval request from a first source. The system then ascertains an attribute of the source which is at least partially independent from the request. In the illustrative embodiment, the attribute relates to internal or external nature of the search engine from which the search request originates. The  
10 system then retrieves information from a database in response to the request and the attribute. The information retrieval system is disposed at least in part in a computing system and the first source is an external search engine connected to the computing system via a network. The system is adapted to receive an information retrieval request from a second source, an internal search engine disposed within the  
15 computing system. The inventive system would typically be implemented in a computing system such as a Web server connected to the Internet via a network interface. In this context, the internal search engine would be implemented in software on the computing system side of the network interface and the external search engine would be implemented in software on the network side of the network  
20 interface.